FAQ for Mentor and Resident Data Collection & Mentor Training Nominations

Mentor Training Nominations

What is a mentor teacher?
A mentor teacher is a classroom teacher who supports aspiring teachers participating in yearlong residencies, new teachers, or more experienced teachers who are in need of support. Mentors may co-teach with yearlong undergraduate or post-baccalaureate residents or may support teachers without co-teaching.

A strong mentor teacher cadre is an important component of Louisiana’s shift to teacher preparation programs that include a yearlong residency.

What is mentor teacher training?
In order to build a cadre of high-quality mentor teachers across the state, the Department is offering statewide mentor training beginning in fall 2017. In 2017-18, 500 mentor teachers will be trained. An additional 1,000 mentors will be trained in 2018-19 and in 2019-20.

What will mentors be able to do by the end of training?
- Build strong relationships with their resident and with new teachers
- Identify and address the needs of residents and new teachers based on teacher preparation competencies
- Deliver resources and coaching for residents and new teachers to help them develop skills and improve their practice
- Track resident or new teacher progress and facilitate resident or new teacher self-reflection and improvement

How should mentors be identified?
When identifying mentors, districts and preparation providers should identify teachers with a strong record of student results and who are able to build strong relationships with adults. Criteria may include:
- Experience making consistent, positive impacts on student learning (e.g., multiple years of highly effective student growth data)
- Knowledgeable about curricular tools and resources
- The ability or potential to teach and lead adults, and an interest in helping colleagues grow
- Strong communication skills
- Ability to manage time and plan effectively
- A commitment to constant learning and improvement
How many training spaces will each district be assigned?
Each district has been allocated a specific number of seats for mentor teacher training. The number of training seats is listed in the data collection template. These allocations were determined based on the size of the district and the district’s workforce needs, with priority given to rural districts participating in the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) grant.

How should a district identify mentors to send to training?
Some districts will have more mentors identified than training seats available. Other districts may not have yearlong residents who need a mentor this year. Therefore, the mentor training identification process will vary from district to district.

Districts with preparation partners should collaborate with those providers in order to determine the best teachers to take part in this opportunity, based on the above criteria.

Districts that are not yet collaborating with a preparation partner should use the above criteria to identify teachers who are best suited to mentor a resident in the future. Training mentors this year will ensure that residents have strong classroom placements in subsequent years.

Can a district nominate more teachers for training then the number of seats allocated? Will there be additional open seats?
It is possible that additional seats will be available in the training if, for example, certain districts nominate fewer teachers than they are allocated. While districts are only guaranteed the number of spaces allotted, districts may nominate additional teachers in rank order should additional seats be available. Districts will be notified prior to the start of training, which teachers have been selected to attend.

May I nominate a teacher for mentor teacher training if they are not serving as a mentor this year?
Teachers may be nominated to attend training even if they are not currently hosting a resident or serving as a mentor but may do so in the future.

Will teachers who attend mentor training receive a stipend?
Stipends are paid to mentors hosting undergraduate residents in yearlong residencies. See below for additional details.

When and where will training be held?
This year, mentor training will include nine, in-person sessions throughout the school year that will be held in two locations. Exact dates and locations will be finalized in September and may be based on the mentor’s certification area.

Is there any cost for the training?
There is no cost to the district or teacher for attending the training.
Mentor and Resident Data Collection and Stipends

Why is the Department collecting data on undergraduate residents and their mentors?
In October 2017, BESE approved a transitional funding plan that provides stipends to undergraduate residents and their mentor teachers. In order to allocate these funds each fiscal year, the Department must collect information about who these mentors and residents are, and where they are completing their residency.

Who must complete the data collection document?
- All preparation providers that have undergraduate or post-baccalaureate residents in yearlong residencies during the 2017-18 school year.
- All districts and charter schools that have undergraduate or post-baccalaureate residents in yearlong residencies during the 2017-18 school year.

What parts must preparation providers complete?
- Preparation providers must complete the mentor and resident tab only.
- Preparation providers should complete columns A-T.

What parts must districts complete?
- Districts that host yearlong residents must review, verify, and complete the mentor and resident data tab and all districts must complete the mentor training nomination tab.
- Districts that have yearlong residents must complete columns U-X on the mentor and resident data tab after receiving the template with rows A-T completed.
- Districts must complete columns A-L on the mentor training nomination tab.

Who is eligible for the mentor and resident stipend?
- Undergraduate residents in yearlong residencies are eligible for a $2,000 stipend.
- Mentors of undergraduate residents in yearlong residencies are eligible for a $1,000 stipend.
- Please note that TIF districts have received additional funds to provide additional stipends to residents and mentors. TIF districts will receive guidance on how to allocate those stipends.

Who will serve as the fiscal agent for the mentor and resident stipends?
- Due to restricted funding sources, stipend funds will be allocated to districts this year. Districts will receive the resident and mentor stipend funds after BESE approval in October 2017. Districts can choose to pay residents themselves, or sign an MOU with their partner preparation providers and send the funds to the preparation providers so they can pay the resident or mentor stipends.
- Further guidance on how and when to pay resident and mentor stipends will be provided once the allocations have been made.
What is the timeline for data collection?

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*It is imperative that providers meet this deadline, as districts must have this information to complete their portions of the data collection tool.*